GOVERNOR MUSGROVE AWARDS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GRANTS TO THE CITY OF SOUTHAVEN

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(Jackson, MS) – Governor Ronnie Musgrove recently announced the latest Economic Development Grant in the amounts of \$247,000 and \$596,869 awarded to the City of Southaven.

"We're working to make a tangible difference in the lives of our citizens. Through funding opportunities like the Community Development Block Grant program, we are impacting community development and building partnerships that will shape the state's economy for years to come," commented Governor Musgrove.

The funds, received through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, will be utilized for public facilities improvements on behalf of Future Electronics, Inc. and Helen of Troy, L.P.

CDBG is a program of the Community Services Division of the Mississippi Development Authority. Among the division's goals are assisting communities in analyzing their strengths and weaknesses, involving their leadership in economic development, planning development strategies, strengthening development organizations, and implementing and financing community projects. The Community Services Division also administers other Economic Development grant and loan programs.

Mississippi was listed by "Site Selection" magazine last year as one of the top ten states for new and expanded facilities. In September 2001, the state was named one of the top ten states for small business survival. Under Musgrove's leadership, more than 2,000 new and expanded facilities have opened, creating more than 50,000 jobs and a total business investment of over \$14 billion.